

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Application responds herein to the Office Action dated October 20, 2005.

The Office Action has been carefully considered. Claims 1-5 are pending in the present application with claim 1 in independent form. Claims 6-11 were previously withdrawn by Applicant's July 25, 2005 Response to Restriction Requirement. A listing of the claims in the present application indicating the present status of each is included herewith for the convenience of the Examiner.

Claims 1-5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Sakiyama et al. (6,063,023). Reconsideration of the rejection of these claims is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 of the present application relates to an endoscope system including an electronic endoscope including an imaging unit, a plurality of types of optical adapters that are freely detachably attached to the distal section of the electronic endoscope, and that has a predetermined observational optical system that includes an identification section with which the type of optical adapter can be identified, a control device that is electrically connected to the electronic endoscope and that includes an optical adapter identifying/verifying means for detecting the identification section so as to verify the type of optical adapter, an image processing means for receiving an imaging signal sent from the imaging unit so as to produce a video signal, and a control means for manipulating a video signal produced by the image processing means, and controlling the electronic endoscope and external equipment; and a display device that receives the video signal sent from the control device and displays an image represented by the video signal.

The Examiner contends that Sakiyama discloses all of the features of claim 1. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Sakiyama et al., as understood by Applicant, relates to a measuring endoscope for forming two images of an object to be measured. The images are taken by two objective lenses at different positions on an imaging device incorporated in a main endoscope unit. The data of

the endoscopic images is processed and measurement is carried out. See Sakiyama, Col.1, lines 5-10.

Sakiyama, however, fails to disclose an endoscope system including a plurality of types of optical adapters that have “a predetermined observational optical system that includes an identification section with which the type of optical adapter can be identified,” as recited in claim 1 of the present application.

Sakiyama does disclose that a plurality of optical adaptors 4 can be attached to an endoscope. In addition, Sakiyama discloses that optical adaptor 4 can be attached to a master imaging unit 34 with an imaging device incorporated therein in order to obtain optical data items of the optical adaptor. The master imaging unit 34 acquires optical data items which are specific to each optical data adaptor 4 and records the optical data items to a floppy disc 33. The floppy disk 33 on which the specific optical data items are recorded and the optical adaptor 4 are associated with each other and are thereafter handled as a pair. See Sakiyama Col. 6, lines 1-15. That is, in Sakiyama, the master imaging unit 34 acquires information regarding a specific optical adaptor and records that information to a floppy disc 33 which is thereafter associated with the specific optical adaptor 4.

The master imaging unit 34 of Sakiyama, however, is separate from the optical adapter 4 and thus, it is respectfully submitted that Sakiyama fails to show or suggest an endoscope system including a plurality of types of optical adapters that have an identification section with which the type of optical adapter can be identified.

Further, while the master imaging unit 34 acquires optical data items related to the optical adapter 4 and records them to the floppy disc 33, Sakiyama does not disclose that the master imaging unit 34 is used to identify the type of the optical adapter. Sakiyama merely discloses that the master imaging unit 34 acquires and records optical data items related to any number of specific optical adapters, but does not disclose that the master imaging unit identifies the type of the optical adapter.

In addition, it is respectfully submitted that Sakiyama fails to disclose an endoscope system including a control device that includes “an optical adapter identifying/verifying means

for detecting the identification section so as to verify the type of optical adapter," as recited in claim 1 of the present application.

Sakiyama discloses that the floppy disc 33 with optical data items related to an optical adaptor 4 can be provided to a floppy disc drive 34 of a measuring apparatus 3. The measuring apparatus 3 also includes a CCU 16 that converts image signals representing images taken by the right objective lens and the left objective lens of the endoscope into video signals to be displayed on the liquid crystal monitor 14 and also recorded in computer 18. The computer 18 also performs measurement on the object to be measured on the basis of the optical data specific to the optical adaptor.

Sakiyama however, does not include a control device that includes an optical adapter identifying/verifying means for detecting the identification section so as to verify the type of optical adapter. The measuring apparatus 3 of Sakiyama merely retrieves the optical data items from the floppy disc 33 that are related to a specific optical adapter 4. Sakiyama does not disclose that the measuring apparatus 3 or the computer 18, connected thereto, detect the identification section of the optical adaptor or verify the type of the adaptor.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1, and the claims depending therefrom are patentable over the cited art for at least the reasons discussed above.

In light of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-5 of the present application are patentable over the cited art and are in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application, allow the claims as amended and pass this case to issue.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on February 1, 2006

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February 1, 2006

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

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